



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

Office of Communications

703-248-5003

FAX 703-248-5146

publicinfo@fallschurchva.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Nicole Gobbo

703-248-5210

Falls Church City Police Department Receives \$10,000 Grant from Kaiser Permanente

FALLS CHURCH, VA – The City of Falls Church Police Department has been awarded \$10,000 from Kaiser Permanente's Community Benefit initiative to purchase seven or more Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) for use in Police patrol vehicles. Falls Church Police Chief Robert T. Murray received the award on behalf of the Police Department on Tuesday, Sept. 20 at Kaiser Permanente's Falls Church Medical Center.

Kaiser Permanente's Community Benefit initiative provides financial support to help create strong, healthy, vital communities. Their \$10,000 grant will provide at least seven AEDs to supply each Falls Church City Police vehicle with one by Nov. 1, 2005, making the City of Falls Church the only jurisdiction in Northern Virginia to have one AED in every patrol vehicle.

The City currently has 17 AEDs offering an immediate response to those in need: one in the Falls Church Community Center, one in the Mary Riley Styles Public Library, one in City Hall, five in Police cars, and nine in Fall Church Public Schools. The City used federal Homeland Security funding to purchase the seven AEDs for the Community Center, the Police Department, and City Hall at a cost of \$1,300 each. The Mary Riley Styles Public Library purchased one AED using money left in their end-of-the-year funds for FY 2004-2005. Falls Church Public Schools purchased nine AEDs using school funds.

AEDs are small, lightweight devices that evaluate a person's heart rhythm (through special pads placed on the torso) and can recognize when a person is experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. If it finds that a person is experiencing cardiac arrest, the AED will prompt the responder through simple steps to defibrillate and the AED will shock the heart while waiting for emergency responders to arrive. AEDs work by giving the heart a controlled electric shock, forcing all the heart muscles to contract at once, and, hopefully jolting it back into a regular rhythm. Today's new AEDs use embedded computer chips to analyze the rhythms instantly and accurately, making it possible for non-medical professionals to administer service without risking an accidental shock. All City of Falls Church Police Officers are trained to use the AEDs, as are select Community Center staff, Library Staff, and School staff.

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Pictured in attached photo (from left to right): City of Falls Church Police Chief Robert T. Murray, City of Falls Church Police Captain/Assistant Chief Daniel Ellis, City of Falls Church Police AED Medical Director Dr. Dan Hanfling, Kaiser Permanente's Falls Church Medical Center Administrator Sue Davidson, Falls Church Medical Center Physician Director Dr. Donna Lee, Falls Church Problem Oriented Police Officer Justin Cuomo, Northern Virginia Area Administrator Deborah Royalty, and Falls Church Medical Center Facility Services Supervisor Gary Newman. Photo credit: Kaiser Permanente.